MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

18 AUGUST 1982

Lebanon

Israeli Position -- After meeting in Beirut with U.S. envoy Philip Habib, Israeli Defense Minister Ari'el Sharon said progress was made on hitherto unresolved issues but further clarifications are necessary. The progress concerned the lists of "terrorists," evacuation of the Syrians and related forces and the return to Israel of the captured pilot and the bodies of nine IDF soldiers, Sharon said in his remarks, which were broadcast by Jerusalem radio. In a related Jerusalem television interview, the defense minister affirmed that no "terrorists" will leave Beirut and no multinational force soldiers will deploy there before the pilot and the nine bodies are returned to Israel. Philip Habib supports this unambiguous Israeli position, he asserted. Sharon also said a solution has been reached for the departure of the Syrians, who will leave along with the other forces and will not be the last to leave. Israel insists that all forces leaving Beirut should likewise depart Lebanon, he added in response to a question about the destination of the Syrians and related forces. He expressed confidence that the evacuation of Beirut will occur at the earliest possible date and will be carried out in a manner that will prevent a nucleus of "terrorists" remaining there.

The major remaining obstacle is the PLO's refusal to hand over the captive pilot and nine bodies to the Red Cross without obtaining anything in return, Jerusalem radio reported early on 18 August. Israel has rejected PLO demands for the release of captured "terrorists" in exchange for the pilot and bodies, the radio noted. Israel's demand that whoever leaves Beirut should leave Lebanon has not been accepted, the radio said, and the departing Syrians will redeploy in the Al-Biqa' Valley, though affiliated Palestinian units will move to Damascus. Israeli sources cited in an earlier radio report said that if the Syrians undertake to leave Lebanon as part of a second stage agreement for the withdrawal of foreign forces, they must not allow the PLO to return to Lebanon under Syrian auspices. Israel would hold the Syrians responsible for any resulting PLO activity, the sources said.

Philip Habib will bring the final draft of the evacuation agreement to Israel on 18 August while U.S. Deputy Assistant Secretary of State Morris Draper will depart for Damascus to obtain an explicit and final confirmation of Syria's readiness to evacuate its own forces and about half the "terrorists" from Beirut, according to Jerusalem television. Meanwhile, MA'ARIV noted that IDF commanders were due to meet multinational force officers to make arrangements for the force's entry into Beirut.

Al-Wazzan Remarks, PLO Departure Positions -- After a meeting with Lebanese officials and U.S. envoy Habib, Lebanese Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan declared that the agreements have ended the "grief" Beirut radio reported. He declined to give a date for implementation of the PLO departure plan but hoped it would begin after the 18 August Cabinet meeting. Al-Wazzan stressed that the unity of Lebanon is more important than holding elections or other issues. In an interview with a SANA correspondent in Beirut reported by Damascus radio, Al-Wazzan praised the Syrian forces for their "great sacrifices" in fighting Israel and affirmed that Lebanon would not sign a separate peace treaty with Israel.

According to a Lebanese official source cited by KUNA, the PLO agreed that the first group of fighters to leave Beirut will number 2,000, and the entire evacuation will take approxomately 15 days. The multinational force of Lebanese, U.S., French and Italian soldiers will have a 1-month mandate, the source noted. Meanwhile, PFLP Political Bureau member Bassam Abu Sharif asserted that no date has been fixed for the fighters' departure and no aggreement has been settled on the procedures for departure, Monte Carlo radio reported.

Jordanian Destination for PLO Fighters -- Jordan sent a memorandum to Lebanon and the PLO underscoring that PLO fighters must pass through the Ar-Ramtha crossing point to enter Jordan, thus ruling out a port entry, Monte Carlo radio reported.

However, according to a Jerusalem radio report on the evacuation plans, the first group of "terrorists" will leave from Beirut to Aqaba port.

Al-Jumayyil Promises -- In an interview with LE MONDE reported by AFP, Lebanese Front Military Commander Bashir al-Jumayyil pledged to rapidly remove Syrian and Israeli forces from Lebanon if he is elected president. He denied he supports partition of the country and said he has always favored Lebanon's reunification.

PDRY Envoy in Damascus -- In a statement to SANA reported by Damascus radio, First Deputy Chairman of the PDRY Council of Ministers 'Ali Antar said he is in Damascus to deliver a message to the Syrian president affirming the approval of the PDRY and the YAR for Libya's call to dispatch forces to fight against Israel.

Cease-Fire Violations, Beirut Situation -- The eastern sector has begun "heating up" owing to cease-fire violations by the "terrorists," Jerusalem radio reported. In his meeting with Habib, Defense Minister Sharon called on the U.S. envoy to take immediate action to prevent such violations, the radio said.

Meanwhile, the IDF withdrew from the Museum-Justice Palace area and the Lebanese Army took up positions there in preparation for the forthcoming presidental elections, according to Beirut radio.

Iran-Iraq War

An Iraqi Air Force spokesman told INA that Iraqi fighters overflew oil tankers near Khark Island to warn them that they were transporting oil in "prohibited areas." An Iranina Armed Forces communique carried by Tehran radio claimed that fighting continued on the western, southern and Abadan fronts and that Iraqi planes were forced away from Iranian border areas.

Iran

The Central Prosecutor's Office announced in a statement carried by Tehran radio that the Union of Communists of Iran has been eradicated. The statement revealed that 100 leading members of the organization had been arrested and accused the group of conspiring with the United States and Iranian exiles and perpetrating the "crimes" in Amol early in 1981.

Iraq

Iraq has signed agreements on cooperation in oil installations with a visiting Soviet delegation, INA reported.

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South Asia

Vol VIII No 160 18 August 1982

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ARMY STRENGTH GROWS; SOVIETS IN KABUL ATTACKED

BK171614 Hong Kong AFP in English 1414 GMT 17 Aug 82

[By Dilip Ganguly]

[Text] New Delhi, Aug. 17 (AFP) -- The strength of the Afghan Armed Forces has dramatically increased fron an estimated 30,000 to 45,000 during the last fortnight, following a government conscription drive backed by last month's announcement of the country's toughest ever draft laws.

Under the new drive, according to Western diplomats, Afghan Army patrols were active along Kabul roads rounding up prospective conscripts. Many shops are closed as their owners, fearing conscription, have either fled to the countryside or joined the ranks of the insurgents.

And with the tough new draft law making military service compulsory for all men up to age 35 and increasing the conscription period from two to three years, many government officials are failing to report to work, they said.

The law came into force on August 2 and Western diplomats, quoting unidentified informed sources in Kabul, said the drive which began on July 25 was still continuing.

Asian diplomats differed with estimates of their Western counterparts. They said the army's strength had increased by 20,000, but that the figure included recalled former soldiers. They also said that even before the conscription drive, Afghan armed strength had never fallen below 45,000.

They put the strength of the Afghan Armed Forces at 65,000 some 45,000 fewer than before the first Marxist coup in April 1978.

There was no official confirmation of the diplomatic estimates in the state-controlled Afghan news media, and the Afghan Embassy here also refused to comment on the diplomatic reports.

However, the Kabul NEW TIMES newspaper said last week that in one province alone, over 4,500 persons registered for army service during the last four months.

Western diplomats put the defection rate in the Afghan Armed Forces as high as 30 per cent and Moslem insurgents fighting the Kabul regime have often claimed that thousands of Afghan soldiers had joined their ranks with arms and ammunition -- claims which have never been confirmed by the Afghan official media.

Meanwhile, there has been an increase in reports of incidents in Kabul. Residents witnessed an explosion in the Share-naw district of the city on August 10 which blew up a Soviet personnel truck parked there, although there were no casualties.

Diplomates said on August 11-12 unusually heavy firing was heard from the district where the well fortified Soviet Embassy is situated. Moslem rebels had apparently attacked the embassy, the sources said, but were repulsed by government troops.

In another incident on the outskirts of Kabul, insurgents killed or captured an unspecified number of Soviet soldiers when their jeep was ambushed, the diplomats said, adding that the attack took place in the Deh Sabz area near the Kabul international airport.

There was no independent confirmation of the reports.

The diplomats gave sketchy reports on the military situation in Paghman near Kabul and Panjsher, the strategic valley about 100 kms (60 miles) north of the Afghan capital. Government troops were still holding on in Paghman, a former Afghan royal resort about 20 kms (12 miles) north-west of Kabul. The place was the scene of fierce fighting last month.

In Panjsher, Soviet-aided government troops were holding the valley and there was no report of any fresh clashes, the diplomats said.

8 KILLED IN CLASH IN KABUL'S PRESIDENTIAL PALACE

BK171630 Hong Kong AFP in English 1500 GMT 17 Aug 82

[By Sami Zubeir]

[Excerpt] Islamabad, Aug 17 (AFP) - - Eight unidentified persons died in an armed clash inside the Kabul Presidential Palace (Peoples House) in the first week of August, Western diplomatic sources said here today, quoting rebel sources.

Eyewitnesses in Kabul were quoted as saying that eight coffins were brought to the city's "martyrs graveyard" following the incident. The graveyard is reserved for the burial of party members and high-ranking government officials.

Diplomatic sources had no information about the incident, but rebel sources said it occurred between the rival Khalq (mass) and Parcham (flag) factions of the ruling Peoples Democratic Party of Afghanistan (PDPA).

The Khalqis, who have support in the army, have been opposing Parchamites in the power struggle since the installation of President Babrak Karmal, who heads their rival faction.

The sources quoting a soldier on guard duty in the palace said the clash lasted 90 minutes after which traffic on several Kabul roads was diverted and some pro-Khalqi members of the government were taken into custody.

Two days after the incident a similar clash occurred in the military establishment at Kabul's Pule Charkhi and the city's transportation centre, they said, but had no details.

80 DRA, SOVIET FORCES KILLED IN HERAT CLASHES

LD132014 Tehran IRNA in English 1930 GMT 13 Aug 82

[Text] Mashhad, Aug 13 IRNA - - The Afghan Muslim mujahideen fighting the Soviet-backed regime of Afghanistan in two clashes in Shindand and Makr-Abad, two regions of the Herat Province, killed some 80 government and Soviet forces.

According to informed Afhgan mujahideen sources here, during these clashes which occurred last week the mujahideen destroyed several tanks and vehicles. In these operations seven of the mujahideen were martyred, the sources said.

REBELS BESIEGE ANAR DARREH GOVERNOR'S OFFICE

LD172050 Tehran IRNA in English 1938 GMT 17 Aug 82

[Text] Mashhad, Aug 17, IRNA - - After hours of confrontation between the Afghan Muslim mujahideen and joint Afghan and Soviet troops, Afghan Muslim mujahideens besieged Afghan and Soviet troops, Afghan Muslim mujahideens besieged the office of the governor of Anar Darreh in Farah Province of Afghanistan on Friday Aug 13.

During the operation, a number of Soviet soldiers were killed or wounded and large hauls of guns, munitions and telecommunications equipment were seized by the mujahideens. Also two Soviet NCO's and one spy, Ameri Hadd, were captured by Afghan Muslim mujahideen.

Meanwhile, some 20 government soldiers surrendered themselves to the Afghan Muslim mujahideen on the same day.

REBEL OFFENSIVES IN HELMAND, QANDAHAR, ORUZGAN

BK171620 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1005 GMT 17 Aug 82

[Text] Reports from Afghanistan say that the Afghan freedom fighters have been on the offensive against the Soviet-Karmal regime troops in Helmand, Qandahar and Oruzgan Provinces. Exchanges of fire between the Mujahidin and the Kabul troops have become part of daily life.

Qandahar's urban guerrilla mujahidin destroyed two trucks of the Karmal army in a grenade attack in the Herat gate of the city. One of the two Soviet tanks stationed at Herat Gate moved toward the troubled spot but after a few yards distance it developed a fault. The four-man crew of the tank tried to run away in panic but three of them were shot dead by the mujahidin. The tank was also destroyed by the mujahidin with a rocket launcher.

The mujahidin conducted a swift attack on the Soviet Army in Gereshk subdivision of Helmand Province, as a result of which two tanks carrying at least six Soviets were destroyed. A day earlier a jeep of the Kabul force was gutted outside Gereshk army camp by the planted mines of the mujahidin. Three Parchami officers boarding the jeep were killed on the spot.

In an attack on the army picket near Tarin Kot, headquarters of Oruzgan Province in central Afghanistan, four Soviets were killed at the hands of the mujahidin. The remaining 17 soldiers of the picket fled away.

LEADERS CONGRATULATE INDIA ON INDEPENDENCE DAY

LD150738 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0439 GMT 15 Aug 82

[Text] Kabul, August 14, BAKHTAR -- Babrak Karmal, general secretary of the Central Committee of the PDPA and president of the Revolutionary Council of the DRA, has sent a congratulatory telegram on the occasion of the Independence Day of India addressed to Zail Singh, president of the Republic of India, to New Delhi. The telegram says:

"On behalf of the people of the DRA and the Revolutionary Council and on my own behalf, I have the pleasure to extend my warm greetings to you and through you to the friendly people of India on the occasion of the Independence Day of India."

The telegram adds: "We are fully confident that the fraternal relations and close cooperation between our peoples and government will permanently grow and develop in the interest of our peoples and consolidation of peace and progress throughout the world."

The telegram concluded: "Availing myself of this opportunity, I would like to express my best wishes for your health and for the progress and further prosperity of the people of India."

Similarly, Soltan 'Ali Keshtmand, member of the Politburo of the Central Committee of the PDPA and chairman of the Council of Ministers, has sent a congratulatory telegram on the occasion of the Independence Day of India addressed to Mrs Indira Gandhi, prime minister of the Republic of India, to New Delhi.

The telegram says: "I have the pleasure to express my sincere greetings on behalf of the Government of the DRA and on my own to you and the Government of India on the occasion of the Independence Day of India."

The telegram adds: "I am confident that the friendly relations and fruitful cooperation existing between the two countries will be further expanded and develop in the interest of our people and the consolidation of peace and security in the world."

ZIRAY ADDRESSES PARTY ACTIVISTS IN KABUL

LD102026 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 10 Aug 82

[Text] Dr Saleh Mohammad Ziray, Politburo member and secretary of the PDPA Central Committee, addressed a meeting of party activists of Kabul party ward number three this afternoon. He said: Your duties as party militants have been better organized than before, according to historic and valuable resolutions of the ninth PDPA Central Committee plenum.

The purpose of this meeting of Kabul party ward number three, which was held at Kabul University auditorium, was to support the resolutions of the ninth PDPA Central Committee plenum. Dr Ziray spoke of the country's political and economic situation, stating: The PDPA and the DRA Government have achieved remarkable victories this year, inflicting crushing and shattering blows on the [word indistinct] enemy. Referring to the political and social work of party militants among the [word indistinct] masses, he said: It is necessary to perform these important and major duties, just as it is proper for a good revolutionary to perform as well as possible the mission assigned to him at this sensitive moment in history.

Zohur Razmjo, member of the PDPA Central Committee and secretary of the Kabul City Party Committee, participated in this meeting, as did some party cadres, activists and members of Kabul party ward number three.

According to the BAKHTAR correspondent, after the presiding board was elected and the agenda was read, the secretary of Kabul party ward number three read the basic statement assessing the results of the ninth PDPA Central Committee plenum and the duties of Kabul city party ward number three in implementing these resolutions. The secretary of the Kabul University party organization, the secretary of (Baricot) primary organization and the deputy head of Kabul Univeriscy's women's dormitory spoke about the statement, expressing their firm support for the resolutions of the ninth plenum and its worthy [word indistinct].

At the end of the meeting a resolution supporting the important resolution of the ninth PDPA Central Committee plenum was issued by the participants of the meeting.

CENTRAL BANK HIGH COUNCIL DISCUSSES ANNUAL REPORT

LD090120 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 8 Aug 82

[Text] The High Council of the Afghanistan Bank, the central bank, was held today in the hall of the central bank, chaired by Dr Khalil Ahmad Abawi, deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers and chairman of the State Planning Committee. Abdol Wakil, minister of finance; Mohammad Khan Jalaler, minister of commerce; Fazl Rahim Mohmand, minister of agriculture and land reform; the deputy industry minister of the Ministry of Mines and Industry; and the control board of the bank were present.

At this meeting [word indistinct] and the income and expenses balance sheet of the Afghanistan Bank in the year 1360 [year ending 20 March 1981], which was prepared and approved by the control board of the bank before it was due, was comprehensively discussed.

A source at the central bank told BAKHTAR that according to the agenda, Dr Mahraboddine Paktiawal, head of the central bank, presented a report on the country's money, currency and economic situation and read the report of the bank's executive board on the bank's activities in 1360, which was confirmed.

Latter the report of the control board of the bank assessing and [word indistinct] financial situation, incomes and expences in 1360 was read by the treasury head of the Ministry of Finance and head of the Afghanistan Bank control board.

In 1360 the Afghanistan Bank increased its opening letters of credit, [word indistinct] exchanges, buying and selling of currencies over the year before. The bank played an active and creative role in absorbing inactive money from individuals, commercial institutions, banks and others into its checking and savings accounts and [word indistinct]. In 1360 the volume of the checking accounts in the bank rose by 43.82 percent compared to last year. If we break down this increase into different categories, the volume of money in checking accounts belonging to individuals has increased by 160 percent, domestic banks by 104 percent, enterprises by 64 percent and foreign companies by 26 percent.

The savings accounts that completely belong to individuals have increased by 33 percent over the year before both in the number of accounts and the amount of money saved.

In 1360 money exchange and transfer in the country was widely carried out by the Afghanistan Bank, which proved useful for strengthening the country's economy and eliminating the need of the people from [word indistinct].

The [word indistinct] of the bank's Afghani borrowing has been [word indistinct] and its currency borrowing, which has been [word indistinct] for the purpose of all-round development of the national economy, increased eight-fold over the year before.

The (?collection) of the bank's Afghani loans [passage indistinct] but the (?collection) of the bank's currency loans shows a 30 percent increase over the year before.

MINISTER TALKS ABOUT EDUCATION ACCOMPLISHMENTS

LD161245 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 14 Aug 82

[Talk by Faqir Mohammad Yaqubi, DRA minister of education, on the activities of the Ministry of Education -- date and place not given -- recorded]

[Excerpts] In accordance with Decree No 26 of the Revolutionary Council Presidium and the resolution of the DRA Council of Ministers, the education and training system [passage indistinct]. The period of compulsory education in all schools of the country has been lowered from 12 to 10 years. It is broken down into three periods: primary, incomplete secondary and complete secondary. Teaching in primary schols has been set for [word indistinct]. The graduates of the incomplete secondary schools, which includes fifth to eighth grades, can continue their education in the [word indistinct] of the complete secondary schools or vocational and technical schools. The complete secondary schools include the ninth and tenth grades. These schools make it possible for graduates to acquire the necessary preparation to continue their education in various fields of higher education.

In the new education and training system the education period has been reduced to 10 years, but the number of classroom hours has increased while the number of subjects has been reduced. With the use of methodical teaching and with the new and improved textbooks, the students can learn more in a shorter period of time. The new education programs have been designed [words indistinct] with the requirements of modern science in mind and with consideration for the social developments of our society today, as a result of which great changes have taken place in the volume and quality of the textbooks. The Ministry of Education has compiled 16 new textbooks.

According to a decision of the Council of Ministers concerning cooperation between the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Information and Culture about the production and broadcasting of educational programs, the Educational Radio and Television Department of the Ministry of Education, with the cooperation of DRA radio and television, has produced and broadcast 931 educational programs. [words indistinct]

Our objective is to increase the level of awareness and knowledge and to educate the noble people of our country. We want to expand the gains of developed and progressive knowledge in our country and to construct a new society in which reaching the peaks of human knowledge, science and technology is the guarantee of development and virtue. But the undeclared war waged by reaction, imperialism and Chinese hegemonism against our revolution and people has created obstacles and difficulties in the process of social and economic changes and also in [word indistinct] of our education and training duties. The counterrevolutionary elements, under the false curtain of defending Islam, have set fire to a number of state and religious schools and other educational facilities. Since the April Revolution counterrevolutionaries have set fire to 1,713 schools in which the future-determining generations of our country were studying. However, the noble people of our country with [words indistinct] to the actions of these American pseudo-Muslims without culture, with financial assistance and voluntary works helped the Ministry of Education in renovating schools and in constructing new ones. Since the April Revolution (?110) schools have been renovated and 334 new schools have been constructed.

The renovation and construction of schools is continuing with increasing speed by the construction unit of the Ministry of Education. But despite the renovation and construction of new schools, we have not solved the problems of all students throughout the country.

The DRA Ministry of Education, according to the political framework of the government's policy, by realizing its great and honorable duty, has made maximum use of existing opportunities. During 1359 [21 March 1980-20 March 1981] in the [word indistinct] plan, about 500,000 people were expected to attend literacy courses but in fact 515,000 managed to attend. These courses were taught by 18,000 (?official) and honorary teachers. During the same year a decree was issued making the absorption of women into literacy courses completely optional and to accomplish this [words indistinct] school was opened in Wazir Akbar Khan Mina in Kabul.

The number of these schools has now been increased and in the future a large [word indistinct] of it will expand all over the country. In 1360, according to the plan, 550,000 of our compatriots attended a total of 27,000 literacy courses, which were taught by 19,000 teachers. This [words indistinct] in 1361, about 632,500 people are receiving education in literacy courses.

GANDHI, SINGH MEET WITH SOVIET VICE PRESIDENT

BK171400 Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1330 GMT 17 Aug 82

[Text] Soviet Vice President Imashev called on President Zail Singh and Prime Minister Mrs Gandhi in New Delhi today. Imashev's meeting with the president lasted half an hour.

DRAFT TRADE AGREEMENT WITH IRAN DISCUSSED

BK171340 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 17 Aug 82

[Text] Iran has sought the help of India in reconstructing its war-damaged industries. The request was made by Iranian Deputy Minister for Commerce (Idayeb Zaidi) when he called on Commerce Minister Shivraj Patril in New Delhi today. (zaidi) said that his country proposes to import engineering items, consultancy services and several essential commodities like rice, wheat and sugar from India. The two ministers discussed the draft trade agreement between India and Iran. The new agreement will give a boost to the economic relations between the two countries.

ARMY, OTHERS INVESTIGATING CHINESE 'INTRUDERS'

BK171219 Delhi INDIAN EXPRESS in English 13 Aug 82 p 1

[Text] Gauhati, Aug 12 -- The army and other intelligence agencies at Gangtok are interrogating four Chinese nationals who were picked up by an army patrol north of Nathu La on the Sikkim-Tibet border on July 16 and 17. The "intruders" are in the custody of the army. They were arrested by army men fairly deep on the Indian side of the border.

According to highly-placed sources, the intruders appeared initially to be like Tibetan grazers. But the security agencies have not taken any chances and are conducting thorough investigations into their antecedents and into the circumstances in which they entered India.

Investigations so far have reportedly revealed nothing adverse. According to highly-placed sources, the central government has decided to repatriate the intruders as soon as the intelligence agencies clear them. It may take another week or so for the security men to take a decision.

If the intruders are repatriated without prosecution it will be in reciprocation of the Chinese gesture some time ago when they returned an entire 40-strong patrol of the Indian Army. The Sikhs had strayed into the Chinese territory due to compass failure.

Highly-placed sources say it is not unusual for people from both sides to stray across the border given the terrain.

The Chinese Government has been informed of the incident.

NEPAL AGREES TO BUILD DAM ON KOSI RIVER

BK091247 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 9 Aug 82

[Text] India and Nepal have agreed to set up a multipurpose dam on Kosi River and the harnessing of other rivers like Kamla and Baghmati for development of water resources. Minister of State for Irrigation Z.R. Ansari told the Lok Sabha today that further talks are on about the projects. The updated prefeasibility report for Kosi high dam has already been submitted to the Nepalese Government. Ansari said the projects are estimated to cost over 40 billion rupees. The Kosi dam will generate 3,000 megawats of power.

Answering questions, Irrigation Minister Kedar Pandey said India built a barrage on Kosi River following Nepal's earlier refusal to build a dam on the river. The existing Kosi canal is irrigating about 250,000 hectares and plans are afoot to develop western Kosi canal project. However, both the countries have now agreed to build a multipurpose dam for the best possible utilization of the Kosi River.

RAFSANJANI: WORLD'S MUSLIMS COUNTING ON IRAN

LD172042 Tehran IRNA in English 1920 GMT 17 Aug 82

[Text] Tehran, Aug 17 (IRNA) -- [Words indistinct] the open session of [words indistinct] this morning, the Majlis speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani, who has just returned from a one-week visit to India, reported on his trip. Referring to his experience in India, Hashemi-Rafsanjani said that he felt that a great responsibility was weighing on the shoulders of the authorities of the Islamic Republic on the grounds that the Muslims of the world have placed their hopes in the Islamic Republic. In contacts with the people of India, he added, they stressed that the campaign against oppressors and the struggle for defending the rights of the oppressed must become universal.

In another part of his speech he said that it had become evident to the Muslims that Islam had the capacity to lead societies. The leadership of Imam Khomeyni for the people of the world has set an example without precedence in the history of world revolutions. For the first time it has become clear that a movement could be launched without reliance on superpowers and remain independent afterwards, he added. All these considerations make the responsibility of those in charge in Iran greater and, therefore, they must work harder, Hashemi-Rafsanjani stressed.

Referring to the brutal torture and martyrdom of three revolutionary guards in Tehran by [words indistinct] last week, the Majlis speaker said that by committing such atrocities, these outlaws aimed at making the Islamic Republic react in a similar manner and thus stain the reputation of the Islamic Republic. He hoped that the authorities of the courts and the Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps (IRGC) would have the patience to bear this crime and deal with these incidents sagaciously. That the Monafeqin [Mojahedin-e Khalq] have reached such a state of insanity, showed that they were doomed to destruction, he said. This statement of the Majlis speaker was received by the approval of the deputies who chanted Allah Akbar (God is great).

Following Hashemi-Rafsanjani's remarks, the deputy from Maku, West Azarbayjan Province, Hashem Hejazi, criticised the silence of the so-called human rights organisations towards the massacre of thousands of Palestinians and Lebanese by the Zionist regime.

In today's session, resignation of the Rezaiyeh deputy, Gholam Reza Hasani, was approved. Hasani submitted his resignation to the Majlis two weeks ago on the grounds that he was serving as the Friday prayer leader of the city. Several bills were discussed in the session which ended before noon. The next session is scheduled for tomorrow morning.

JOINT STAFF COMMUNIQUE NO 1,019 DETAILS FIGHTING

LD171736 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 17 Aug 82

[Communique No 1,019 of the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] In His exalted name. The situation on the battlefronts of the imposed war and the battle by the brave combatants of Islam is brought to the attention of the Muslim and combative Islamic community of Iran.

On the country's Western fronts the self-sacrificing warriors of the ground forces, together with other combatants of Islam, returned enemy fire and shelled enemy positions, units and supply axes. During this exchange of fire, one supply bridge of the Iraqi Ba'thist mercenaries was destroyed, one ammunition depot of the aggressors was set on fire and a number of their troops were killed. On these fronts, the self-sacrificing combatants of Islam silenced enemy artillery and other heavy weapons fire, and controlled their movements and operations.

Exchange of fire on most of the southern fronts continued yesterday and the combatants of Islam, consolidating their own defensive positions, returned enemy fire by pounding Iraqi forces' positions and fortifications. On these fronts the combatants of Islam sent out tank hunting squads to carry out reconnaissance operations with [words indistinct] inflicted the necessary blows on the Iraqi Ba'thist mercenaries. In this way the combatants of Islam controlled enemy operations and movements.

On the Abadan front and the Arvand Rud sector the brave warriors of the gendarmerie returned Saddam's mercenaries' fire and silenced their heavy artillery fire. Approximately 10 Iraqi Ba'thist aggressors were killed and more than 20 wounded. By destroying seven slit trenches and foxholes of the Iraqi Ba'thist aggressors our gendarmerie forces prevented the disintegrating Saddamist forces' movements.

Yesterday artillery fire of the Saddamist criminal mercenaries damaged the city of Abadan. Our casualties in this city included one martyr and several wounded.

Also yesterday the aggressive planes of the invading Iraqi Armed Forces tried to violate the airspace of some border regions, but antiaircraft fire of the air defense units of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran forced the aggressive planes of the enemy to flee.

[Signed] The Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran

IRAQ'S AL-FAW OIL INSTALLATION UNDER ATTACK

LD141912 Tehran IRNA in English 1706 GMT 14 Aug 82

[Text] Abadan, Aug 14, IRNA -- The Al-Faw oil installation in southern Iraq, came under the heavy fire of the Iranian forces which caused considerable damage on Saturday.

Also, during this same time, more than 25 Iraqis were killed as the enemy positions beyond the Arvand Rud were subjected to the Iranian artillery which smashed two watch posts, four machine gun positions and five group bunkers.

In another development today one Iraqi command post was pounded and 35 more enemy soldiers were killed under the artillery fire of the Islamic forces which was directed at the enemy positions in the Iraqi regions of Chahar Cheragh and Sibeh beyond the Arvand Rud. Meanwhile, the enemy movements and artillery fire were halted when the Iranian defenders, barraging the Iraqi logistical routes of Sibeh-Saita and Al-Faw-Basra, killed or wounded at least 15 Iraqi soldiers and destroyed one 60-mm mortar launcher, one anti-aircraft gun, seven watch posts and eight trenches of the Iraqi Ba'thists during Saturday.

USSR POWER UNIT IN AHVAZ BACK IN OPERATION

GF141810 Ahvaz Domestic Service in Persian 1330 GMT 14 Aug 82

[Text] The first 315-megawatt unit of the four units comprising the thermal powerplant of Khuzestan went into operation yesterday afternoon in the presence of Ghafuri-Fard, energy minister, deputies and directors-general of the ministry and some of the Khuzestan authorities, and the production capacity of the power generated was linked to the national network.

During the opening ceremonies of this power station, the director-general presented a report on the history of the project from the initial stages of construction to the present phase. Then, Energy Minister Ghafuri-Fard delivered a speech pressing his appreciation on the [words indistinct] of the power plant and its role in awakening the dormant talents of the creative, dedicated forces of the Islamic revolution.

It may be recalled that the construction of the power station began in August 1974, after the signing of an agreement with the Soviet Union. Following the victory of the Islamic revolution, the first unit of the station went into production in 1980. After the beginning of the imposed war, this station was damaged, and this powerplant became disconnected from the national network. However, the dedicated and revolutionary workers of the powerplant began repair work about 5 months ago and succeeded in repairing the first of the four units of the 1260-megawatt capacity plant. This unit has increased the production of power of the national network in the first phase of its operation by 100 megawattas since yesterday and will reach its maximum output of 315 megawatts in the next few hours.

By joining the national network, the first unit will increase the total national power production by 8 percent. It will also have a considerable stabilizing effect on the power production of the Khuzestan Province. Furthermore, it may be mentioned that with the linking of the powerplant to the national grid, the shortage of power in the other units will be considerably minimized and by removal of certain units from the network, it will be possible to repair and service them as required.

NVOI: FOIL U.S. PLOTS BY ENDING GULF WAR

TA161212 (Clandestine) National Voice of Iran in Persian to Iran 1730 GMT 14 Aug 82

[Unattributed commentary: "Let Us Deprive America of the Potential for Exploitation by Ending the Imposed War"]

[Text] Dear compatriots: World-devouring America's war imposed on Iran's liberated nation has so far cost us innumerable material and human losses. According to a figure presented by our country's president, Iran has suffered $150 billion in damages, equivalent to 6 years of Iran's oil income, which without a doubt is an extremely heavy blow to Iran's economy. The Iraqi nation, too, has suffered at least $100 billion in financial losses in this war. Thus, world-devouring America, by imposing the destructive war on the Iranian and Iraq nations who could have played a great role in the struggle against Israel's occupying regime, inflicted losses of $250 billion upon them. In addition to $250 billion in financial losses, countless human losses have also been inflicted on the two nations. This is precisely what world-devouring America and Zionist Israel wished and continue to wish.

Not many days had passed after the imposition of war on Iran's peace-loving nation before we witnessed the extensive activity of Zionist Israel's military and political machine in the region. Simultaneously with engaging in a series of air violations against a number of Arab countries, Israel with the utmost impunity entertained the thought of annexing the Golan, and after a while it brutally launched an attack on Lebanese territory, and up to this day it is engaged in shedding the blood of Palestinian and Lebanese strugglers.

It is obvious that the continuation of military clashes between our country and Iraq has in many respects allowed and will allow the aggressor Israel and world-devouring America to commit further aggression. For this reason the continuation of this war, to the limit of bringing revolutionary Iran to its knees, is in the interest of world-devouring America.

To the acknowledgement of even imperialist and Zionist newspapers and mass media, the outstanding victories by Iran's Armed Forces in ousting the agressive enemy alarmed America's and the region's reactionary circles, and the consequences of this victory aroused their concern and fear. This victory caused the consolidation of the foundations of the system of the Islamic Republic of Iran, and since after months of epic-making self-sacrifice the Iranian nation was able to cleanse the homeland's soil from the filty presence of the agressive enemy, it aroused the deep admiration and respect of progressive mankind and all anti-imperialist countries. Neutralizing the consequences of this great victory by the Islamic Republic's system in the imposed war is the main goal of world-devouring America.

Both America and the region's reaction see in the continuation of the war the best way to neutralize the results of revolutionary Iran's victory. For this reason all realistic revolutionary forces perceive the interest of our revolutionary homeland and of our ever-on-the-scene nation in terminating the imposed war. Of course the conditions for ending the war have been repeatedly stated by the leaders of the revolution and the committed government figures of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

One should forever remember the Imam's guideline regarding the aims of world-devouring America and the fact that should it be necessary this sworn enemy of Iran will wait 50 years to strike at anti-U.S. Iran, and one must never entertain the thought that one day America will recognize the Iranian revolution and anti-U.S. Iran. As long as the government of the Islamic Republic of Iran moves forward in the imam's line, namely the line of all-out consolidation of Iran's political, economic, military and cultural independence, the line of struggle against imperialism headed by world-devouring America, the line of securing an honorable life for the million-strong deprived masses, including aiding the deprived nations of the region that are under the domination of imperialism and Zionism, America will fight against the Islamic Republic of Iran, and will not refrain from any crime and plot to bring the Islamic Republic to its knees.

America is striving with all its might to bring to power in Iran a so-called moderate, middle-of-the-road and Westernized government. This is the line of the main movement by imperialist America with respect to revolutionary Iran. For this reason the policy of the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran in all fields, including the issue of the war, should be based on foiling this criminal plan by America.

OFFICIALS CLAIM UNION OF COMMUNISTS ERADICATED

LD171938 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 17 Aug 82

[Text] According to the Central News Unit, in connection with the eradication of the organization of Iran's communists, the following statement was issued by the Public Relations Office of the Central Prosecutor's Office:

In the name of God, the crusher of the oppressors. You saw what the people of Amol did to you. Imam Khomeyni, the organization of the Union of the Communists of Iran [Tashkilat-e ette-hadiye-he komonist-haye Iran], the perpetrators of the bloody crime in Amol, has been completely wiped out.

O heroic Islamic community of Iran, the martyr-nurturing people of Amol, following the proud advances of the combatants of Islam, in line with the courageous operations to penetrate Iraq and with the extensive cooperation of the hezbollah ummah and the incessant efforts of the brothers in the Islamic Revolution is Central Prosecutor's Office, by simultaneously implementing an extensive plan, the American organization of the Union of the Communists of Iran, the planners and perpetrators of the bloody crimes on 26 January 1981 in Amol, was completely wiped out.

One hundred members, the governing board, leadership, cadres and those responsible for the provincial branches were arrested. Several safe houses, overt and covert print shops of the organization, assorted weapons and large quantities of ammunition for rocket launchers, explosives, bullet-proof vests, a complete transmitter-receiver network, typewriters, printing machines and photocopiers, interorganizational documents on the attack on Amol, the connection between the organization and the national resistance council and the so-called government-in-exile of Bani-Sadr and Rajavi, the connection with the mercenaries of the arch satan in Kordestan and also several cardboard boxes full of rare and expensive drugs, which the said minigroup had obtained for use in Jangal, were discovered and seized.

The names of some of the arrested are as follows: (Hoseyn Taj Mir Qiyahi), alias Naser the great, the organization's number one agent and member of the leadership, responsible for the whole organization, responsible for the Jangal incident, planner of the attack on Amol and responsible for the murder of dozens of brave young people of Amol; he was wounded during the said attack.

(Faramarz Semnani), alias Mostafa, the organization's theoretician and architect, member of the central cadres and of the organizational committee, secretary general of (Ehya) confederation in America. He spent 15 years in Berkeley, the United States, and returned to Iran in the glorious days of the victory of the revolution.

(Majid Sari'olqalam), alias Mostafa; formerly responsible for the organization, member of the governing board, member of the central cadres and the organizational committee. He spent 14 years in Kansas, Chicago, Oklahoma and Los Angeles, the United States.

(Farid Sari'olwalam), alias Ehsan; member of the leadership and responsible for all of the printing and publication. He spent 10 years in Kansas, the United States.

('Abdolraman Azmayash), alias Daryush, member of the organization's leadership, responsible for the workers' branch, responsible for the Tehran committee. He spent 6 years in Iowa, the United States.

(Mohammad Hoseyn 'Aliabadi), alias Hasan, former member of the leadership, present member of the printing council and responsible for research. He spent 15 years in San Jose, the United States.

(Farajollah Losani), aliases Fariborz and Aqamirza, member of the printing council. In 1979-80 he attended a debate with the famous liberal Abolhasan Bani-Sadr at the industrial university, as the organization's spokesman. He spent 9 years in Michigan, the United States.

[Word indistinct] (Khorramruz), alias Mirza Yusef, formerly responsible for Esfahan, deputy in the Jangal incident.

(Mohammad Reza Vosuqi), alias Mahmud Gilan, formerly responsible for Gilan and liaison between printing and leadership. He spent 9 years in Los Angeles, the United States.

(Mohammad Reza Baghebad-Ahvazi), alias 'Abbas, member of the central cadre, responsible for all of Khuzestan.

(Sadeq Khabbaz), alias Samad, holding a false birth certificate in the name of (Ahmad Bustan), member of the Tehran committee, formerly responsible for the Dezful branch. In 1970-71 he was responsible for the hijacking of a plane to Baghdad.

('Abbas Sa'idaqi), alias 'Ali, responsible for the Al-Ahrar group, Khalq-e 'Arab, the Arabian branch of the organization.

(Hamid 'Ayyur), alias Jasem, responsible for the Abadan branch of the organization.

('Ali Baba Shahmi-Arzani), alias Javad, responsible for the Ahvaz branch of the organization.

(Nasrin Jazayeri), alias Parvaneh, responsible for the (Peyk) committee of the organization. She spent 3 years in Chicago, the United States.

It should be explained that this American minigroup, which believed in participating in the Iran-Iraq war, and aimed its weapons at the people of Amol to shed the pure blood of many dear hezbollahi people on the streets and alleyways of Amol, had stolen most of the weapons from its agents in the fronts, who thus fulfilled their promise to the arch satan America and bereaved many families.

In this connection, due to the efforts and cooperation of the Ahvaz prosecutor's office and the regional guards corps, large quantities of ammunition and heavy and light weapons that they had hidden in Abadan were discovered and seized.

In the hope of the victory of the forces of Islam and the destruction of U.S. internal agents!

[Signed] The Public Relations Office of the Islamic Revolution's Central Prosecutor's Office

CLANDESTINE: DEATH NOT EXPECTED FOR QOTBZADEH

GF172024 (Clandestine) Free Voice of Iran in Persian to Iran 1500 GMT 17 Aug 82

[Summary] The trial of Sadeq Qotbzadeh has been adjourned until next Saturday. At yesterday's court session which was held in camera at the Evin Prison, Qotbzadeh (?defended himself). He has been cooperating with the regime's officials at the prison and has revealed the names of several people to the regime's clergymen in the hope of saving himself.

It is thought that the adjournment of the case reveals the regime's reluctance to impose a death sentence on Qotbzadeh.

Qotbzadeh has been charged with conspiring to kill Khomeyni and plotting a coup d'etat against the clergymen's regime. In fact, Qotbzadeh, through his own admissions in Tehran and in his talk on television, has provided an excuse to Khomeyni and the mullahs to malign a prominent religious leader like Ayatollah Shari'atmadari.

In view of Qotbzadeh's real role, which is his cooperation with the Khomeyni regime, and their machinations against Ayatollah Shari'atmadari, it is not expected that Qotbzadeh will be sentenced to death. What is more Qotbzadeh is one of those persons who helped to build Khomeyni in his role as the imam. It is also being said that Khomeyni, in view of his indebtedness to Qotbzadeh, may avoid passing the death sentence.

Western dailies while referring to the Qotbzadeh trial today reported that the trial that began last Saturday has been adjourned until next week. A Paris paper [name indistinct] reported that last week 70 people were executed in Iran for the crime of cooperating with Qotbzadeh.